



33 Fieldcrest Avenue
Edison, NJ 08837

February 22, 2022

Legislative Hearing Testimony Submission – General Law Committee
H.B. 5146 - AN ACT ESTABLISHING A SUPERMARKET FOOD DONATION PROGRAM

I write on behalf of Wakefern Food Corp., a retailer-owned supermarket cooperative serving nine states, whose members – largely family-owned businesses – proudly operate 38 retail supermarkets under the ShopRite and Price Rite Marketplace banners in Connecticut.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on this proposal to establish a supermarket food donation program.

As operators of full-service, community-focused supermarkets, we routinely demonstrate our deep commitment to addressing food insecurity by donating wholesome food to area pantries and food banks and by raising and donating funds to support their operations. Wakefern members in Connecticut are also deeply committed to reducing food waste; in addition to making food donations where possible, we also participate in programs to compost food waste.

We write to provide some additional background as you consider H.B. 5146.

There does exist a well-established and robust food donation infrastructure, with protocols in place, developed in partnership with area food banks. We partner with CT Foodshare, as well as with many other local charitable organizations. We wish to raise caution to ensure that well-intended changes to the current operations not be drafted which may expose our members to unnecessary regulation and unintended consequences that could impact our on-going and well-received programs.

For more than 20 years, Wakefern and its cooperative members have led the industry in the fight against hunger through its ShopRite Partners In Caring program. More than \$60 million has been donated and millions of pounds of food provided to assist those in need. We look forward to continued partnerships with key stakeholders in Connecticut.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Lori Price", with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Lori Price Abrams
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Wakefern Food Corp.
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